

Editorial amendments have been made to the specification and abstract.

With regard to the formal matters raised in paragraphs 1 and 2 at the top of page 2 of the Office Action, attention is directed to the enclosed Letter Re Proposed Drawing Amendments. This is submitted to replace the LETTER RE PROPOSED DRAWING AMENDMENTS filed February 24, 2000. It is submitted that both of the objections raised in paragraphs 1 and 2 of page 2 of the Office Action thereby are obviated. Attention particularly is directed to the fact that enclosed is a sheet of formal drawings including Figures 15D-15G corresponding to that filed February 24, 2000. This submission does not constitute new matter, since such sheet of drawings was filed with the filing of the International application.

The previous claims have been canceled and replaced by new claims 39-76. With regard to such new claims, attention is directed to the following.

The newly presented claims are intended to be of the same scope as the previous claims. The only changes are directed to matters of form without effecting the intended scope of subject matter being claimed.

The newly presented claims obviate the formal rejections raised in paragraphs 4-9 on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action.

For the above reasons, it is submitted that the present application now is in proper form. In the event however that the Examiner still has any concerns regarding matters of form, then the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney by telephone to promptly resolve any such matter.

The indication of the allowability of the subject matter of various of the dependent method claims is noted with appreciation. However, it is noted that the Examiner rejected the remaining of the previous claims, the primary reference relied upon by the Examiner being Murakami, the Examiner also applying Tang and Viza.

It respectfully is submitted however that the subject matter of the present invention as embodied by independent claims 39 and 58 manifestly patentably distinguishes over such references for the following reasons.

As will be apparent from the present specification, a fundamental inventive concept of the present invention is that the hardening of the resin, the leveling of the bumps, and the correcting of any warping of the circuit board all are achieved, by the method and apparatus of the present invention, at approximately the same time. It is believed that this feature was specifically set forth in the previous independent claims. However, new claims 39 and 58 specifically emphasize this feature.

This feature clearly and manifestly patentably distinguishes over the above references. Particularly, none of the above references disclose or in any way even remotely suggest this feature. Particular attention is directed to the fact that Murakami specifically achieves hardening after deformation due to pressing, since heating specifically is carried out after pressing.

The above feature is not in any way disclosed or suggested by Tang or Viza.

The Examiner therefore is requested to reconsider and withdraw the prior art rejections and to allow new claims 39-76.

As such, it is submitted that the present application now clearly is in condition for allowance, and the Examiner therefore is requested to pass this case to issue. Again, however, in the event that the Examiner has any comments or suggestions of a nature necessary to place this case in condition for allowance, then the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undesignated attorney by telephone to promptly resolve this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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